

I am writing today to the CT General Assembly Judiciary Committee to express my extreme opposition to HB 6816 AN ACT CONCERNING MICROSTAMPING-ENABLED PISTOLS, RAISING THE AGE TO PURCHASE AMMUNITION AND RESTRICTING THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF BODY ARMOR.

I am submitting my testimony anonymously since publishing in the public record with full name would allow unknown persons access to my address. I want to minimize becoming a target of possible theft of firearms (regardless that they are stored securely), so reserve submitting personal information. I am a constituent in the House 60th District and Senate 2nd District.

The idea of a microstamping feature to be added to firearms is to me from an engineer's point of view and common sense point of view a ridiculous thought. Anyone who understands mechanical engineering concepts, manufacturing concepts, and business models should be quickly able to understand that although this feature in some form is possible, it is by no means feasible other than to apparently destroy the ability to LEGALLY obtain and use any new pistol type firearm in Connecticut once such a law would be enabled.

Business models and manufacturing means to achieve this feature would not allow for a useful business decision by any for-profit firearms manufacturer to engage in producing a line of specialized pistols with such a feature for a small market as Connecticut is. For most legal owners, even if such a firearm existed, it would be prohibitively expensive to acquire because of the specialized processes to manufacture and maintain. In competition shooting, participants often travel from out of state to attend matches. CT residents would be prohibited from acquiring new pistols with other advanced features or newer calibers to compete against shooters from states that do not have requirement for the microstamping feature. Another thought that comes to mind is that competition rules may not allow for non-standard features which may be deemed to alter or potentially alter performance of the performance instrument (pistol firearm). The weight of any mechanism to stamp the casing is another consideration. Ballistics characteristics may also be affected requiring yet more, additionally costly measures to counter adverse actions.

Common sense against microstamping indicates that anyone intent on committing a crime with a pistol will most likely defeat quite easily the microstamping feature. If the claimed intent is to be able to deter crimes or more easily solve them, that goal seems to be quickly defeated.

With regard to raising the age requirement to purchase ammunition, I see that as a detriment to young hunters and shooting sports enthusiasts, who need to purchase ammunition for use even with a legally owned long gun. I must question, even if the good intent is to limit availability of ammunition to immature persons or those intent on committing crimes with a firearm or using them illegally, responsible law-abiding young adults will be adversely affected. Back to the topic of competition shooting, Connecticut students at colleges who have intercollegiate shooting teams would lose opportunity to practice their skills while home from school, and likely there would be much less opportunity to develop Olympic level competitors from our state.

Please vote NO to promoting HB 6816